

February 25, 2011

Dear Appropriations Members:

I am parent of a graduated student of Explorations Charter School located in Winsted, Connecticut and also a member of the Board at Explorations. My son would have been one of the many who would not have graduated from high school if it hadn't been for Explorations. He made a choice to commit to Explorations, because, in his opinion they treated all students the same, whether they were rich, poor, smart or challenged. In the case of my student he stopped believing in education and had no use for it. It all changed at Explorations. Not that he did well – but he made it through. He has a high school diploma, something that a lot of his friends do not. Explorations provide a learning environment that supports students as individuals. He never received good grades in any school, although he was more than capable and was always considered an outsider. At Explorations, he fit in.

We live in the town of Granby, Connecticut and Granby does not provide transportation to any Choice school. So for the two years he went to a local Magnet school and then the three years at Explorations, his father and I transported him back and forth. We believed in Explorations.

No matter what type of public school we are discussing, Magnet, Charter or Traditional they have a place in our educational system. So as you review the budget and where the monies will do the most good, consider the individual student and their individual needs, and where they might receive positive motivation to succeed. Because if you do, you will have many more students, like my son, that will know the joy of receiving a high school diploma.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Soloshun
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West Granby, CT 06090